

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appl. No. 09/786,883

IN THE CLAIMS:

2 Please enter the following amended claims: 1

Pat B27
Q3
4. (amended) The method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said metal or a metal constituting said metal compound is a metal selected from the group consisting of a metal of Group VIb, Group VIIb, Group VIII, Group Ib, Group IIb, Group VIa and Group VIIa in the periodic table of elements.

Q4
6. (amended) The method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the thiol group-containing compound is a compound selected from the group consisting of an alkylmercaptan, an arylmercaptan, an amino acid and a derivative thereof, a peptide compound, and a protein.

7. (amended) The method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the sample containing the thiol group-containing compound is a biosample isolated or collected from a mammal including a human.

Q5
12. (amended) A thin membrane for use in the method according to claim 1 or 2.

2 Please add the following new claims: 1

Q6
13. (new). The thin membrane according to claim 9, wherein said substance is a metal. 13